Purchasing power of people in rural and urban areas

*272. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to an estimate made by the National Sample Survey, about 12 crore people in the rural and 1.5 crore people in the urban areas are in a position to spend on themselves only Rs. 34 a month; and

(b) if so, what were the corresponding figures at the beginning of each five year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the results of the consumer expenditure survey conducted in the 28th round of NSS (Oct. 73-June 74). If so, the figures given in the Question are confirmed.

(b) The corresponding figures at the closest year to the beginning of each Five Year Plan when the consumer expenditure survey was conducted are given in the attached table. *(see below)*

Estimated number of persons with per capita *expenditure less than Rs* 34 *per month*

Survey period	Current Prices		Constant Prices (1973-74)	
	Persons (in crores)		Persons (in crores)	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
†Apr 52-Sep. 52	28·02	5·39	5·03	0·66
Aug. 56-Feb. 57	31·38	5·91	8·38	1·43
Jul 60-Aug. 61	31·57	5·83	7·89	1·09
Jul. 65-Jun. 66	30·30	5·79	11·19	1·62
Oct. 73-Jun. 74	11·89	1·49	11·89	1·49
Jul. 77-Jun. 78	7·95	0·70	10 57	1·31

†The results are based on a tabulation of a sub-sample, and the methodology had also not yet been perfected.

Arrest of Indian Fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy

*273. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen who were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy during the last three years and also the details of each incident;

(b) what steps Government have taken to protect the Indian fishermen from being harrassed by the Sri Lankan Navy in future;

(c) whether Government have lodged a protest with the Sri Lankan Government on such violation of Indian territorial waters; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) From 1982 until the end of July 1984, 125 Indian fishermen were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy in 21 separate incidents. In each case, the High Commission of India in Colombo took up the matter with Sri Lankan authorities. With the exception of one